

Saint Louis University School of Nursing 22nd Annual Advanced Practice Nursing Conference & Skills Workshops Faculty



Jerry Thurman, MD, has been in practice since 1997. He completed a fellowship with Saint Louis University School of Medicine's endocrinology and metabolism department, and now serves as an assistant clinical professor of medicine in that same program. Dr. Thurman's internal medicine residency was completed at St. John's Mercy Medical Center. His medical degree was earned at the University of Missouri - Columbia. He also completed his Masters in Healthcare Administration at St. Louis University with an emphasis on diabetes care in a managed care setting. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor for the school of Public Health and Social Justice. He participates in St. Louis University Center of Outcomes Research.

Dr. Thurman is the medical director of the Diabetes Care Center at SSM Health St. Joseph Hospital - St. Charles. Among his numerous professional affiliations and activities, Dr. Thurman was previously on the board of directors for the Heartland Chapter of the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists and the Eastern Missouri board of directors of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Fund. He is also a participant in Volunteers in Medicine, providing diabetic care for indigent patients in St. Charles. In addition to diabetes, Dr. Thurman's endocrinology practice focuses on patients with thyroid disorders, osteoporosis, obesity, male impotence, poly-cystic ovarian syndrome and other hormone-related problems.



Dr. Hilary Reno is an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Washington University in St. Louis. She received her M.D. and Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and completed her residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship in Infectious Disease at Wash U. As a fellow, she developed an interest in public health and STIs and has served as the Medical Director of the St. Louis County Sexual Health clinic for 12 years. She is faculty with the St. Louis STD/ HIV Prevention Training Center, a medical consultant with the Division of STD Prevention, CDC, and director of the St. Louis STI Regional Response Coalition. She is also an HIV and transgender health provider. Her research addresses quality of care and health care delivery for patients with STIs.



Angela Williams, FPMH-NP

More to come....

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Margaret R. Benz, M.S.N.(R), APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP

Margaret Benz is an Assistant Professor at Saint Louis University School of Nursing. Margaret sees patients in the St Louis Housing Authority and at the Health Resources Center. She served as the Vice Chair of MO Health Net Oversight Committee from 2010 - 2019 and continues to serve on the Rural Health subcommittee. She also received a commendation award for volunteerism from President Obama for service to the community mainly for her work at the St Patrick Center where she is a board member since 2002. She is a recipient of St Louis Magazine's Excellence in Nursing Award in 2013 with a perfect score as well as the 2014 AANP State Excellence Award. Additionally, Margaret won the 2014 March of Dimes Nurse of the year award in the Educator Category. Margaret currently serves as Chair of TCU, Harris College of Nursing and Allied Health Board of Visitors. Her professional organizations and Associations include Sigma Theta Tau International (officer), AANP, (Missouri State Representative) American Nurses Association, Missouri Nurses Association, Saint Louis Nurses in Advanced Practice, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, (Fellow), National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, Distance learning Special Interest Group (NONPF), Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners, Alpha Sigma Nu, Honorary Inductee 2016



Shellie Hill DNP, FNP-BC currently serves as an Assistant Professor in the MSN-NP program at Saint Louis University. She has been a Family Nurse Practitioner for 18 years. Most of her clinical practice has been in primary care and she also has experience in urgent care. She is passionate about dermatology and has studied extensively. Shellie also serves on several committees at Saint Louis University including University Nursing Group, Advanced Practice Nurse Continuing Education Planning Committee and is a board member on the Delta Lambda chapter of Sigma.



GERALYN A. OCHS MSN, APRN, AGACNP-BC, ANP-BC, FAANP

GERALYN A. OCHS is an Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Adult Gerontological Acute Care Nurse Practitioner program at Saint Louis University. For the past twenty years Ms. Ochs has been responsible for the curriculum design, content and implementation of the program. Her clinical practice is in Emergency Medicine at a Level One trauma facility.

Ms. Ochs is an active member of several State and National organizations in a variety of positions that directly influence the practice of the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner.

Ms Ochs has contributed to the transforming nursing practice thru numerous presentations nationally and internationally as well as a consultant to practicing nurse practitioners in the community. She has authored in both textbooks and study guides for medical/ surgical nursing.

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Christopher R Hemmer, DNP, ANP

Dr. Christopher Hemmer is an Assistant Professor at Saint Louis University School of Nursing. He is a Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP), Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) as well as the Vice President at Piper Spine Care.

Dr. Hemmer's research area is in vertebral compression fractures and osteoporosis. Specifically, the identification and management of fractures and osteoporosis in the adult population is a strong area of interest.

Dr. Hemmer is a member of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners, North American Spine Society, Association of Missouri Nurse Practitioners, National Association of Orthopedic Nurses and St. Louis Spine Society.



Dr. Joanne Thanavaro DNP, AGPCNP-BC, AGACNP-BC, DCC, FAANP Dr. Thanavaro is currently an Associate Professor of Nursing at St. Louis University School of Nursing and the Associate Dean of Graduate Education. She received her BSN and her MSN in Cardiovascular Nursing Research at St. Louis University, her post-master's certificate as an Adult Nurse Practitioner at the University of Missouri, St. Louis and her postmaster's certificate as an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner at Southern Indiana University. Her doctorate in nursing is from Case Western Reserve University, the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, in Cleveland Ohio.

Dr. Thanavaro is a Fellow of the American Association of Nurse Practitioners. She is actively engaged in clinical practice as an advanced practice nurse at Washington University School of Medicine. She has published widely and spoken locally and nationally on topics related to advanced nursing practice with a focus on cardiovascular care. She is the former editor for "Image of the Month", a column in the Journal for Nurse Practitioners. Her text "Clinical Decision Making for Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioners" was released in 2016. Dr. Thanavaro opened a Nurse Practitioner Student Led Free Clinic in July 2016 in collaboration with the Health Resource Center at Saint Louis University.



Renee L. Davis, D.N.P., RN, CPNP is the coordinator of Nursing of Children's clinical component for the traditional undergraduate nursing program, instructor in graduate and undergraduate programs at Saint Louis University School of Nursing. Renée Davis' research interests include pediatric obesity and food based rewards influence on obesity.

She is a member of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners (NAPNAP), the Saint Louis Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners and the Delta Lambda Chapter, Sigma Theta Tau International.

Renée Davis' research interests include pediatric obesity and food based rewards influence on obesity. Dr. Davis oversees clinical groups at SSM Health Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital and Saint Louis Children's Hospital. She also teaches Pediatric Advance Life Support (PALS) courses at Belleville Memorial Hospital in Belleville, Illinois.

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Andrea Latta, APRN

Andrea lives in Lincoln County, MO with her husband of 21 years and 2 children (ages 18 and 15). She has been in the field of nursing since 1994 when she graduated from Missouri Baptist College of Nursing (hospital-based diploma program). She began her nursing career working at a dialysis unit in St. Charles County and never looked back. She has always been in the field of dialysis spanning a near 25 year career (10 years as a dialysis RN and now almost 15 years as a NP). She has worked at Midwest Nephrology her entire NP career with Dr. Singer and their expanding practice. She is appreciative and eager for the opportunity to share her knowledge with other practitioners.



CATHERINE KUSH, DNP, RN, GNP-BC received an ASN from Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL in 1975, a BSN from Capital University, Columbus, Ohio in 1990, an MSN in gerontological nursing in 1995, a post-masters certificate as an Adult nurse practitioner from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 2000, a post-masters certificate as a Geriatric nurse practitioner from St. Louis University in 1997 and Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) from St. Louis University in 2010. Catherine has extensive and varied experiences in nursing including acute, ambulatory, and long-term care as well as being a nurse educator. She retired as a lieutenant colonel from the U.S. Army Nurse Corps after 21 years of service in 2002. She is currently an assistant professor of nursing at Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes Jewish college with a part time geriatric nurse practitioner practice.

Research interest include Transition of Care, 30-day readmission reduction and antibiotic stewardship related to urinary tract infections in the long-term care setting. Currently the interim coordinator for the West County Campus for Goldfarb School of Nursing at Barnes-Jewish College, president of the Tau Iota Chapter of Sigma Nursing Honor Society, board member and Missouri delegate for The Society for Post-Acute and Long-term Care Medicine (AMDA), member of the American Nurses Association, mentor for the ANA mentorship program, Gerontological Advance Practice Nurses Association, and American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.



Rebecca Sarabia, WHNP-BC is a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner working in the OB/Gyn clinic at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. She began her career in the medical field as a medic in the Army, where she spent over a year living in Korea, working with military families at an active duty and family medical center. After military service she completed her BSN at SIUE, graduating in 1996. She continued caring for women and families as a labor and delivery nurse at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. After completing her MSN, at UMSL in 2005 she began working at the BJH OB/Gyn clinic. She recently completed her Doctorate of Nursing Practice from SIUE; with sex trafficking and sexual exploitation being her primary research focus.

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Enbal Schacham, PhD, MPE, M. Ed, is a Professor for Behavioral Science and Health Education at the SLU College for Public Health and Social Justice; Director of the Ph.D. in Public Health Studies program; Faculty Co-Lead GeoSLU; Geospatial Institute at Saint Louis University. She has conducted studies examining health and behavior of people living with HIV for more than a decade focusing on topics including ART adherence, HIV PrEP and psychological distress. She is currently the Co-PI of a combined research collaborative with Dr. Karen S. Moore, DNP, APRN, ANP-BC, FAANP, Associate Professor at the SLU School of Nursing focused on the role of NPs in HIV prevention.



William Summers, MD is a specialist in infectious disease and internal medicine. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama, with a residency in Internal Medicine and a Fellowship in Infectious Disease. He has been in practice over twenty years including work with the St. Louis Effort for AIDS and HIV PrEP.



Matthew Ellis, MPE currently works at the Department of Psychiatry, Washington University in St. Louis and is a doctoral candidate of Behavioral Science/Health Education in Public Health Studies at Saint Louis University. Matthew does research in Addiction Medicine, Psychiatry and Emergency Toxicology.